

Project Title: University of Colorado/National Jewish Medical Screening Program for Former Rocky Flats Workers exposed to Toxic Chemicals, Asbestos, and Noise

Site: Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site

Consortium: University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (UCHSC) and the National Jewish Medical and Research Center

Targeted Groups of Former Workers: During the first year, 1999-2000, screening examinations will be offered to approximately 690 workers who had high exposures to asbestos. In subsequent years, workers who were not exposed to asbestos, but who had other exposures will also be eligible for screening.

Phase II start date: August 1999

Toll free number: 1-877-895-4984

The UCHSC/NJMRC Medical Screening Program for former Rocky Flats workers will provide notification of past workplace exposures to toxic chemicals, asbestos, and noise to approximately 15,000 former production workers, and provide medical screening examinations to those with exposures that may have increased the risks for certain diseases.

The offering of screening examinations will be prioritized, based on levels of exposure to asbestos, lead, chromium, nickel, formaldehyde, carbon tetrachloride, methylene chloride, trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene, and noise. The program expects to provide about 700 examinations per year for three years.

The data for past exposures to toxic agents were obtained through an effort to reconstruct toxic exposures for epidemiologic studies of production workers at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS). This work involved an extensive series of interviews with former production personnel selected to represent the wide variety of job tasks performed during the production era. The information from the interviews was used by industrial hygienists to estimate past levels of exposures for the different categories of jobs performed.

The roster of eligible former workers was constructed using the most complete available data on persons who have ever worked at RFETS. Sources included a number of different databases constructed over the years by the RFETS personnel department, databases from past epidemiologic studies and surveillance projects, and paper records of the Personnel Strength Reports. These data will be used to prepare job histories for each former worker, and to locate and notify former workers about the medical monitoring program.

The medical screening examinations will be conducted by medical personnel at the National Jewish Medical and Research Center in a special clinic dedicated to this program. The clinic will operate 2-3 days per week during the first project year. A nurse case-manager will be available to assist workers with referrals and workers compensation claims. The case manager will also assist with referrals for follow-up diagnostic tests if they are necessary. However, the program will not cover the costs of any additional follow-up care or tests.

The UCHSC/NJMRC program will not provide medical monitoring for exposures to radiation and beryllium. Medical monitoring for these exposures is being provided by the Medical Monitoring of Former Radiation Workers Program (contact Joe Aldrich at 303-966-3269) and the Beryllium Health Surveillance Program (contact Bill Stange at 303-966-7000). Both programs are currently administered by Oak Ridge Associated Universities for the Department of Energy.